

DRAFT UPDATE

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

5:280

Educational Support Personnel

Duties and Qualifications

Support staff include: secretaries, administrative assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, certified occupational therapy assistants, physical therapy assistants, registered nurses, and teaching assistants.

All support staff: (1) must meet qualifications specified in job descriptions, (2) must be able to perform the essential tasks listed and/or assigned, and (3) are subject to Board policies as they may be changed from time to time at the Advisory Board's sole discretion.

Paraprofessionals and Teacher Aides

"Paraprofessionals" and "teacher aides" are noncertificated personnel with supervised instructional duties; the terms are synonymous. Service as a paraprofessional or teacher aide requires a "statement of approval" issued by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), unless the individual holds certification any certificate indicative of completion of at least a bachelor's degree, or a professional provisional vocational certificate, is completing an approved clinical experience, and/or is student teaching.

LEGAL REF.: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §6319(c).
34 C.F.R. §§200.58 and 200.59.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 5/10-22.34a, and 5/10-22.34b, and 25/2.
625 ILCS 5/6-104 and 5/6-106.1.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§25.510, 25.520.

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:170 (Safety), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:35 (Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers)

ADOPTED: April 4, 2012

Comment [AKL1]: UPDATE 1. Language in the Paraprofessionals and Teacher Aides section is edited for continuous improvement to more accurately reflect language from ISBE rules at 23 Ill.Admin.Code §25.510 and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.630(b)(2).
Important: Speech-Language paraprofessional approval phase-out. After the 2013-2014 school year, districts and special education joint agreements will no longer be able to seek approval from ISBE to use speech language paraprofessionals to provide speech-language services when they are unable to hire certified speech-language pathologists. Educators currently serving as speech language paraprofessionals who wish to continue providing speech-language services after the 2013-2014 school year will need to obtain certification as a certified speech-language pathologist (23 Ill.Admin.Code §§25.45 and 25.252), speech-language pathologist intern (23 Ill.Admin.Code §25.255), or speech-language pathology assistant (105 ILCS 5/14-6.03). For more information, see ISBE's *Weekly Message* from Feb. 27, 2012, at: www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/2012/message_022712.pdf.
Issue 79, May 2012